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farm vets

Newsletter

November 2025

Exciting News
We're Growing!

We're thrilled to announce the opening of our brand-new farm branch at **Shotton Farm near Yetholm**, starting **3rd November!**

This expansion means we'll be welcoming new clients from the beautiful Scottish Borders, with **24/7 year-round cover** to support your farm needs.

Our **practice hours** are Monday to Friday, 10:00am - 3:00pm - and we'd love for you to stop by during our **opening week** for a warm cuppa, a slice of cake, and a friendly chat with our vets. Come celebrate with us!

Anna Takes the Stage at BCVA!

At this year's **British Cattle Veterinary Association (BCVA) Conference**, Anna gave a fantastic talk on her work with the **90+ Club**. She shared insights from several years of data and highlighted the many benefits of being part of the club.

A huge well done to Anna for representing the team and showcasing such valuable work!

Clinical Case Focus - Babesia

Over the past few months, we've seen a surprising reappearance of **babesiosis** in our area, a disease not encountered in our practice for nearly three decades. **Babesia**, the parasite responsible for '**red water fever**', invades and destroys red blood cells. It is primarily transmitted by ticks, which may be carried by wildlife, dogs, or cattle from endemic regions. While rare, transmission from dam to calf can occur, but the disease doesn't spread directly between cows.

Early signs include: **lethargy, fever, weakness and depression**. These may progress to: l**oss of appetite, jaundice, anaemia and red urine (haemoglobinuria)**.

A presumptive diagnosis can be made generally on history of disease and clinical signs but, in new areas, a blood sample can confirm the presence of **Babesia**.

Treatment for **babesiosis** includes supportive therapy, such as fluid therapy, pain relief and antibiotics for secondary infection. Blood transfusion (see photo) can also be used in severe cases.

The use of a babesiaside, such as Imazol, can be used for both prevention and active treatment. Tick burden management, especially before and after movement, can reduce the risk of introduction of infected ticks to naïve cows, though it doesn't eliminate the risk entirely. If you suspect **babesiosis** or would like to discuss tick management, please contact one of our vets.

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FerAppease – Pheromone Therapy to Calm Your Stock, or a Placebo?

Charlotte (Surrey Vet Student)

Recently we had a talk from a representative from 'FerAppease' about their new product. One of our Surrey students wrote the following article about it.

A new product on the market "FerAppease" aims to reduce stress in cattle using pheromone therapy. Maternal pheromones (mBAS) are secreted on the udder to provide a calming effect to calves when suckling. FerAppease uses a synthetic form of mBAS to replicate this calming effect and can be applied to stock of all ages prior to any stressful event (excluding just before calving and serving) to reduce threat perception. FerAppease is safe to use in sheep however fewer trials means that the uses have not been fully explored.

FerAppease works within 30mins, after application to the face and poll, and remains effective for 14 days. Many stressful situations including weaning, fostering, disbudding, castration and even fractious cows during a caesar could potentially benefit from using FerAppease to make the process smoother for all involved.

FerAppease aims to reduce threat perception in cattle which could reduce flight zones, inflammation, morbidity and mortality. Most studies support that FerAppease reduces blood cortisol levels (an indicator of stress) in cattle. Many reports of the product's efficacy come directly from farmers.

We would like to assess the efficacy and usefulness of FerAppease ourselves, so if you are interested in using the product on your cattle or sheep, please contact your vet for further information.

FRIDAY 21ST NOVEMBER

Teams of up to 6 people- £25 per team

7pm. Alnwick Rugby Club. All money raised will be split between RABI and The Country Trust.

Don't Forget to Use!

- **Pneumonia vaccines** — Two doses of Bovalto Respi 3 or 4, or *Rispoval 4* four weeks apart ideally finishing two weeks before housing. If this is not possible, intranasal vaccination such as Bovalto at housing, with or without IBR vaccination. A booster of *Ovivac P* or *Ovipast* can also be used in lambs, to reduce the risk of *Pasturella* pneumonia.
- **Fluke treatment** – If liver fluke has been identified on your farm this year, it's important to treat with products containing triclabendazole, which are effective against immature fluke. For tailored advice on managing fluke this autumn and winter, speak to your vet.